OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

EXAMINATION of the Argument for the High Antiquity of the REGIAM MAJESTATEM, from the Chronicle of Kinloſs.

A Confirmation of an argument of probability, that the Regiam Majeſtatem was compoſed in the time of king David I. had been drawn by Mr. James Anderſon, from the Chronicle of the abbey of Kinloſs, founded by that king.

In the courſe of an enquiry into that matter, this argument fell to be examined, in doing which, it might have been ſufficient to have ſhewn that there was very little weight in it, and that the confirmation it received, from the Chronicle of Kinloſs, was of no importance, as that was a modern work, written in the ſixteenth century.

But much more has been done. The character and works of Joannes Ferrerius Piedemontanus, the ſuppoſed author of that Chronicle, have been brought to the teſt, and he has been ſeverely reprehended as an ignorant, faithleſs, and fooliſh writer.

One is at a loſs to diſcover any ſufficient reaſon for ſo violent an attack on this author, for reciting a ſtory which it is certain he did not invent, and which he found, very probably, in ſome chronicle written before his own time.

It is acknowledged, that the ſame thing told by Ferrerius, ſtill exiſts in more than one manuſcript of that age, in which the code in queſtion is mentioned. It may therefore be preſumed, that he had ſeen the account in the writings of prior, or of contemporary authors. And, though he is repreſented as a credulous reporter, he yet prudently omitted its moſt improbable and ridiculous circumſtances. Examination, p. 31.

The aſhes of Joannes Ferrerius Piedemontanus, might therefore have been left undiſturbed, for he only repeated a ſtory, which other authors of character

had told before him. The examiner, however, has beſtowed much labour and many pages, to prove that Ferrerius, becauſe he has happened inadvertently to fall into one miſtake, is unworthy of credit in any thing elſe.

This author was produced by Sir Robert Gordon, to prove a fact which happened in his own time, viz. that Adam Gordon, a ſon of the family of Huntly, having married the heireſs of the eſtate of Sutherland, was thereupon created earl of Sutherland.

As the teſtimony of Ferrerius, ſuppoſing his authority to be valid, muſt be of the greateſt importance in aſcertaining this point, it was not enough for the examiner to render him ſuſpected. It became neceſſary entirely to deſtroy his credit as an hiſtorian.

In performing this, the zeal of the examiner may, perhaps, have carried him too far; and it may not, therefore, be improper to conſider the grounds on which his attack is founded.

Johannes Ferrerius, is ſaid, p. 20. to have been diſcovered by Robert Reid, abbot of Kinloſs, during an embaſſy in France; and to have been hired by him to teach the Latin language, in the monaſtery of Kinloſs, with a view that the brethren might by degrees be led to the knowledge of the ſciences, and be able to combat the Reformers with their own weapons.

This ſtory is very probable, but where it is found is not ſaid.

Ferrerius's own ſtory, however, in the Hiſtory of the Abbots, publiſhed by Mabbillone, from Ferrerius's MS. in the library of Chriſtina, queen of Sweden, is ſomewhat different. It is as follows.

Marten. Col. vet. ſcript. Tom. 6. p. 326. folio edit. Pariſ. 1729.

" Anno MDXXV. ætatis meæ XXIII. veni Pariſios, ubi pene triennium to-
" tum exegi ſub Johanne Morando, natione Picardo, nunc doctore theologo
" in Collegio Lexovienſi, ſub Johanne Tartaſio primario, atque tunc, oblata
" nuſquam occaſione videndæ Scotiæ, cum M. Roberto Reyd, nunc abbate a
" Kinloſs, ſub annum MDXXVIII. in Britannium tranſmiſi, et cum eo in
" aula Scotiæ *tres annos fere vixi*; ſed cum viderem ſic meorum fieri ſtudio-
" rum jacturam, petii vel ut mihi poteſtatem in Kinloſs degendi faceret, vel
" abeundi potius. Ille cum nollet me miſſum facere, non gravate permiſit, ut
" in Kinloſs vitam tranſegerim. Itaque toto hoc quinquennio vel in inſtituendis monachis,

" monachis, vel in ſtudio meo privato, vel in commentariis aliquot novis eden-
" dis fui. Nunc autem hoc anno MDXXXVII. quo hæc ſcribo, Italiam identi-
" dem, ſi nihil impediat, cogito."

From this account it appears, that Ferrerius lived three years at the court of Scotland, with his patron abbot Reid, who was then a ſort of miniſter of ſtate; and we thence eaſily infer, that he might have related with authority, who was at that time earl of Sutherland, and how the title was acquired, as that muſt have been generally known at court.

If Ferrerius had been always an obſcure Latin teacher in a cloiſter, that circumſtance might have derogated from his authority; but his teaching Latin alone, cannot be ſaid to diminiſh his credit in any degree. It is certain, that Buchanan did the ſame; but no man on this account ſuſpected his authority as an hiſtorian: and it is plain, that Ferrerius, beſides Latin, taught logic, rhetoric, geography, philoſophy, and many other branches of knowledge; and publiſhed, in his life-time, ſeveral books. It may not be improper to give his own account of theſe things. Vide Bayle.

" Deinceps ſubſcribemus libellorum per nos eodem tempore editorum ti-
" tulos & nomina.

" Enarrationes proborum authorum per nos in capitulo a Kynloſs.

" Primo enarravimus Divi Hieronimi ad Paulum epiſtolam, cujus initum eſt
" *Frater Ambroſius*, idque fecimus, nuperante Domino Thomæ Chryſtallo, abbate
" et adminiſtrante a Kynloſs. Item dialecticen Georgii Trapezontis. Item offi-
" cia amicitiam, ſenectutem paradoxa et Somnium Ciceronis. Item praxin arith-
" meticis quam noſtra marte ſcripſimus. Item ſpheram Joannis a ſacro Boſco.
" Item decem libros Ethicorum Ariſtotelis Argropilo interprete. Item octo Po-
" liticorum libros, et Oeconomicorum duos Ariſtotelis, Leonardo Aretino inter-
" prete. Item dialogos duos Phyſicorum Jacobi Fabri Stapulenſis. Item Para-
" phraſii Fabri in octo Phyſicorum Ariſtotelis libros. Item Paraphraſii Fabri in
" tres libros Ariſtotelis de anima. Item Introductionem et Dialogos Fabri ad
" Metaphyſicen Ariſtotelis. Item Paulum Roſetti, hoc eſt de laboribus beatiſſi-
" mi Pauli libros ſex, heroico conſcriptos carmine. Item ſyntaxin Melanchto-
" nis. Item primum Pſalmum. Item quartum librum *Sententiarum Petri*
" *Lombardi.*

" Enarrata per nos in cubiculo noſtro aliquot monachis private.

" Primum Syntaxin Melanchtonis, Officia Ciceronis, precepta elegantiarum " Auguſtini Senenſis, libros de duplici copia, Eraſmi dialecticen, Georgii Tra- " pezontii introductiones, ſeu mavis tabellas noſtras in logicen, parva logica- " lia, Fabri Stapulenſis cum noſtris commentariis tres primos de cælo et mundo, " libros Ariſtotelis ex paraphraſi Fabri, prædicamenta Ariſtotelis, inſtitutiones " rhetoricas, cum libro de figuris Melanchtonis, libros quatuor rhetoricorum ad " Herennium, Orationem Ciceronis pro Milone, Buccolica Virgilii, ſecundum " et ſextum Enæad. Virgil. librum Fabii Quint. de inſtitutione orat. Andriam Terentii, Agricolam de inventione dialectica.

" Enarravi private Domino Joanni Perſont. lib 4, ſent. Petri Lombardi. " Item celeſtem hierarchiam Divi Dioniſii. Item eccleſiaſticarum hierarchiarum " ejuſdem. Item de divinis nominibus ejuſdem. Item myſticam theologiam " ejuſdem.

" Lucubratiunculæ & commentarii *noſtro marte editi in Kynlos.*

" Primo edidimus contra receptam opinionem de nomine, prenomine, cog- " nomine, et agnomine, libellum unum. Item de vera comitæ ſignificatione " ad Jacobum ejus nominis quintum Scotorum regem, lib. 1. Item de nume- " rorum praxi, lib. 1. Item de officiis vitæ Chriſtianæ, lib. 1. Item de anima- " rum immortalitate, lib. 1. Item epigrammatum variorum, lib. 1. Item in- " troductionis ad logicen, lib. 1. Item in enotatione verſiculi Juvenalis, ubi Ci- " ceronem poetam bonam fuiſſe defendimus, lib. 1. Item Chorographiæ Tau- " rinorum, lib. 1. Item vitam ſenioris Abbatis in Kinloſs, hoc eſt domini Tho- " mæ Chryſtalli, lib. 1. Item ſylvæ ſeu obſervationum pro texenda hiſtoria " a Kynloſs, lib. 1. Item auditum viſu præſtare contra Ariſtotelis placitum, lib. " 1. Item de ſyllabarum quantitate, lib. 1. Item commentariorum in parva " logicialia Jacob. Fabri Stapulenſis, lib. 1. Item annotationes aliquot in æras, " lib. 1. Item quod Cicero non viderit, Virg. lib. 1. Item orationum encomiaſ- " ticarum de Sandis, lib. 1. Item epiſtolarum familiarium ad varios, lib. 8. " Item Bibliothecæ ſelectorum librorum quam Robertus Reid, Abbas a Kyn- " los nuper inſtituit. lib. 1. Item totius orbis quadruplicem figurationem, lib. " 4. Item deſcriptiones terræ repromiſſionis, lib. 1.

" Inchoata

" Inchoata nondum abſoluta; Item contra parva Logicalia, lib. 1. Item " Scholiorum in dialecticen Trapizontii, lib. 8. Item primarum et mediarum " ſyllabarum tabellas, lib. 2. Item felicitates Ariſt. et paradoxorum ad veram " Chriſti felicitatem, lib. 9. Item annotat. in Ethicen Ariſt. lib. 10. Item an- " not. in Politica Ariſt. lib. 8. Item Commentariorum in Encomica Ariſt. lib. " Idem idearum Platonicarum, lib. 1. Item annotat. in officia amicitiam ſenectu- " tem Paradoxa, et Somnium Ciceronis, lib. 7. Item Commentariorum in qua- " tuor libros Apodix Euclidis, per Boethium verſorum, lib 4. Item Commenta- " riorum in epiſtolam Divi Hyeronomi, cujus initium eſt *Frater Ambroſius*, cum " typo locorum illic contentorum. lib. 1. Item peregrinationes Divi Pauli, ex " Actis Apoſtolorum pictura. Item periclitationes humanæ vitæ inter virtutes et " vitia, lib. 2. Item de mundi eternitate adverſus Ariſtot. lib. 1. Item proverbio- " rum centuriam, lib. 1. Item triplicis in primum Pſalmum enarrationes, lib. 1. " Item de recta ſacrarum literarum interpretatione, lib. 1. Item Commentario- " rum in Paulum Roſetti, lib. 6. Item apologiam adverſus futilia aſtrologorum " judicia, lib. 1. Item annotat. in 4 libros, M. Sentent. libri 4, *de his plus* " *ſatis.*"

Theſe extracts give us no contemptible idea of Ferrerius's knowledge and taſte; and one hundred years after the time of Ferrerius, we find one of the greateſt men in Scotland, profeſſor of philoſophy at Glaſgow, viz. John, afterwards viſcount of Stair, great-grandfather to the examiner.

Pref. to Forbes's Journ. of the Court of Seſſion, p. 30.

It is ſaid, that " The office of teaching Latin at Kinloſs, was juſt better than " ſtarving in France."

The yearly ſalary which Ferrerius received in the year 1540, as he himſelf has informed us, was 40 l. " Ego vero cum multis precibus et literis ejuſdem abbatis re- " vocatus, tum ut mihi plus otii ſuppeteret in recolligendis meis ſtudiis, ſub an- " num Domini 1540, in feſto Paſchatos, redii in Scotiam, ubi offendi Domi- " num meum declaratum Epiſcopum Orchodenſen. a quo ſum exceptus huma- " niſſime atque ut ultro mihi reduci gratificaretur, nullo meo impulſu ſed ſua " ſponte decrevit mihi quotannis quadraginta libras monetæ Scoticæ, pro meis " ſtipendiis, ac ſimul impenſam mihi uni meo famulo et duobus equis; et ut hoc " ipſum eſſet fixum ſine fraude et dolo malo amborum literas confecit mihi in " hujuſce rei teſtimonium publicas, quibus appendet ſigillum commune a Kyn- " los, cum monachorum omnium ſubſcriptionibus ut vocant manualibus."

It is certain, that in 1532, the yearly ſalary of the ordinary judges of the Court of Seſſion was only about fourſcore pounds, ſo that Ferrerius's appointment proves that his office was by no means diſhonourable.

The examiner obſerves, page 30, "That it ſeems demonſtrable that there "was no ancient chronicle from which he drew his information;" and in ſupport of this propoſition, an argument is drawn from a paſſage in Ferrerius's book, "that from the days of Fluteri, 17th abbot, to the 23d, ſingula rite te-"nemus." But to this Ferrerius himſelf anſwers, "In ſupputatione tempo-"rum multa habuimus ex Martyrologia in Kinlos, et allis vetuſtis ſcriptis, "quando hic vel ille abbas vixerit aut quippiam fecerit." And he goes on to mention when he conjectures, and when he ſpeaks from evidence; and finiſhes his preface with declaring that all was exact from Fluter's time.

From the nature of the thing there muſt have been writings and remains of old buildings, &c. which inſtructed dates; and it is clear he muſt have poſſeſſed old MSS. to guide him in his conjectures. There are chronicles ſtill extant, and papers which mention ſeveral of theſe abbots, vide. Fordun, vol. I. page 246, 347, 473. Vol. II. page 44. and the exactneſs of the dates and names ſhows that Fordun muſt have had ſome chronicles to build upon: the conſequence of this is, that the whole of the argument, in the Examination, falls to the ground.

The next work of Ferrerius which falls under the examiner's inſpection, is his Hiſtory of the Family of Gordon; in the introduction to which, the author very properly remarks the difficulties that occur in tracing families to their origin; that mathematical demonſtration, is not to be expected on ſuch a ſubject; and that the reader ſhould reſt ſatisfied with ſuch evidence as the nature of the thing affords.

The paſſage is as follows, "Quo fit, ut dum nos inſignis familiæ natalem "ſcrutamur lectorem eum expectamus, que de rebus a noſtra memoria remotiſ-"ſimis equiſſime judicet ne ſi ad omnia ubique evidentem probationem expoſcat, "nimium anxie judicat, de his quæ ſatis fideliter a majoribus noſtris ſunt literis "commendata; ſatis eſt in hiſtoria ſi ſingula narrentur ſimpliciſſime, quo modo "ab ipſis viris bonis et ſtrenuis geri potuerint, abſit tantum mendacium illud "quod ab omnibus facile deprehenditur, de quo quidem vel ipſe ſenſus commu-"nis dijudicet, nil tale potuiſſe geri, et eſſe ad gratiam vel omnino imprudenter

"con-

" confictum. Cæterum quæ ita olim gerebantur ut etiam nunc indies fieri vide
" mus, non prorſus fide carere debent, ſi minus explicata ſunt literis, ſed com-
" moda interpretatione ſuſcipi; ne vel in poſterum qui nos ſequentur eadem autho-
" ritate noſtra elevare facta conentur argutius quam verius, quæ tamen certiſſime
" geſſimus. Quod quidem de rebus geſtis judicium ſi equus lector ſibi ultro per-
" ſuaſerit in legendis hiſtoriis, multo melius ad uſum multorum & ſuorum fac-
" torum memorabilium exempla uſurpabit in communi vita, quam nonnulli fa-
" ciunt, qui ad ſingula nauſeantes ſibi præcludunt viam bene beateque vivendi
" imitatione majorum, quos talia feciſſe qualia ſcribuntur minime credunt."

A *few* of theſe words are picked out as rules laid down by Ferrerius for writing hiſtory; particularly, " abſit tantum mendacium illud quod ab omnibus " facile deprehenditur;" but take the paſſage altogether, and it is apparent that he is only giving reaſons why a reader of hiſtory ſhould not be *too* ſceptical.

The rule he laid down for writing this hiſtory is told by himſelf afterwards very properly, in theſe words, " Ab his itaque initiis Malcolmi Regis felici au-
" ſpicio, multi poſtea fuere Gordonii viri inſignes, quorum nomina vitia tempo-
" rum nunc ignorantur: quibus vero carioſa vetuſtas pepercit ut aliquo modo
" ad hanc uſque ætatem, eorum nomina quamvis obſcurius pervenerint in præ-
" ſentia nos commoda brevitate illuſtrare decrevimus, ac quantum fieri per nos
" poterit, ubique veritatem ſine quovis fuco complectemur."

If theſe rules for writing and for reading hiſtory are joined, they will be found to contain nothing that is not univerſally acknowledged to be juſt.

In treating of the revolution which happened upon the acceſſion of Malcolm Canmore, Ferrerius has the following paſſage; " Impetrata igitur victoria, Mal-
" colmus Kean-moir, die vigeſimo quinto Aprilis, Anno Domini 1061. more ma-
" jorum apud Sconam coronatur. Inde Forfaram generalem edixit conventum,
" ubi primores regni qui partibus ſuis adhæſerant quorumque patres a Machabæo
" fuerunt truculentur extincti amplis donavit prædiis agriſque, et magiſtratibus
" redditis, priſtinam ipſorum aut parentum reſtituit dignitatem; et ut res ipſa mira-
" bilior eſſet apud poſteros ob bene navatam pro ſuo principe operam mutatis cog-
" nominibus familiarum, a ſuis prædiis unumquemque cognomentum ſibi ad-
" ſciſſere imperavit. Hinc factum eſt ut pleraque nomina familiarum vetera tunc
" eſſe deſierint, et nova quadam origine, non rerum quidem, ſed nominum dun-
" taxat gentilitatis aliter vocitari cæperint. Ac ut cæteros non paucos nunc ſilentio

" præ-

" præteream, tunc primum a nomine terrarum in Merchia Gordonii cæpere dici; " qui et prius illic imperitarunt, ſed alio quodam cognomento quod oſcitantia " ſcribentium ad poſteros non eſt tranſmiſſum."

In this detail our author is ſupported, not only by the Scotch hiſtorians in general, but by ſir James Dalrymple, one of their beſt antiquarians, who, in what regards names of perſons, takes notice in his preface, page 67, that men, in ancient times, ſometimes gave their Chriſtian names to lands, and at other times took their ſurnames from lands.

The examiner, however, objects to that paſſage in Ferrerius, where he ſays, that " nomen proprium non ſatis tenetur," of that Gordon who was ſo great a favourite of king Malcolm the third; and who killed the great boar, and got the grant of the lands of Gordon.

There ſeems to be nothing wrong in the paragraph, but what ariſes from the ſuppoſition of the examiner, that " nomen proprium" ſignifies the ſurname, when it may mean only the Chriſtian name; or, from the ſuppoſition, that " dominus" meant lord, (i. e.) a peer of the realm; when, as the examiner himſelf obſerves, it may mean, and properly does mean, only the proprietor of the lands of Gordon.

Ferrerius is reprehended, in the next place, for having paſſed over a tract of time in which he found no ſufficient materials for his hiſtory. In juſtice this ſhould have been mentioned to his honour; but, inſtead of this, a ſuppoſition is indulged, that there was no ſuch annals as he refers to.

The examiner concludes his obſervations on the Hiſtory of the Gordons, with a reflection upon Ferrerius for making the Bertram de Gordon, who killed king Richard the firſt of England, in the 1199, a Scotchman. But whether our author was ill informed, or not, as to that particular, cannot certainly be known; and ſuppoſing it an error, it is an error of that ſort which is to be found in all books of genealogy.

Examination, page 24.

Ferrerius's edition of Boece, and Continuation of the Hiſtory of Scotland, fall next under the examiner's cenſure. His firſt obſervation, which relates to the names of king James the firſt's daughters, ſeems to ſuppoſe that this was a blank which Ferrerius found in Boece's manuſcript, and could not, upon enquiry, get filled up by the old people then alive.

But

But our author expreſsly ſays, that the blanks which he found in that MS. hiſtory were only two, and related to men only, and were of little conſequence; "duas tantum parvi momenti lacunas reliquit, ubi propria nomina "quorundum nobilium virorum deſiderantur. Nos ſtudioſe ſupplere id ipſum "tentavimus ſed fruſtra, nam, &c." *

The Lacunæ are marked as ſuch by him, page 364, and page 374. The blank, as to the names of four of the daughters of James the firſt, is not ſo much as taken notice of by Ferrerius; and indeed it was of as little moment as the blank for the name of the duke of Burgundy's daughter, fol. 383. verſo.

It is ſaid that Ferrerius omitted, in his edition of Boece, the name of that daughter of king James the firſt, who was married to the earl of Huntly; and that he has ſaid in his Hiſtory that her name was either Jean or Anabell; but had this been really the caſe, the inference to be drawn from the obſervation is not very obvious. The lady's name was Anabell, as appears from a charter under the great ſeal, dated the 10th of March, 1459. *book* 5. *No.* 91. Yet ſir John Skeene, clerk regiſter, in his Table of the Kings of Scotland, publiſhed with his and Glendouk's editions of the acts of parliament, names her Jean.

The firſt ſuppoſed error of Ferrerius, in his Supplement to Boece, relates to the erection of St. Andrew's into an archiepiſcopal ſee. It is ſaid, that the reaſons given for this by Ferrerius, founded on the former juriſdiction of the archbiſhop of York, are abſurd; but no other reaſons are aſſigned for this erection, and it is acknowledged by one of the lateſt and beſt writers on that ſubject, Mr. Keith, that the controverſy about the ſupremacy of the ſee of York, over the church of Scotland, was a matter of conteſt determined in the time of James the third by pope Sixtus the fourth, in favour of the Scotch; and it ſeems very probable, that the reaſons urged by Ferrerius may have been thoſe ſtated by the lawyers for the church of Scotland, and may have been the reaſons for converting the ſee of St. Andrew's into an archbiſhoprick †.

Ferrerius

* H. Boeth. Hiſt. p. 355. Pariſ. 1574.

† Vide Keith's Catalogue of Scots Biſhops, page 20. Spotiſwood's Church, page 52.

Ferrerius is accuſed of being, like all ſuperficial foreigners, liberal in beſtowing titles of dignity; and the inſtances quoted in ſupport of the accuſation are lord Kennedy, whom he names as "Comes de Caſſilis," about the year 1483. And lord Bothwell, who he ſays was "paulo ante auctus comitatu "de Bothwell.

Theſe perſons ſtand thus in the record quoted from Rymer, ad annum 1486. "Johan. dominum Bothvile, Johan. dominum Kennedy, milites," which demonſtrates that the titles of *dominus* and *miles* ſubſiſted at once in the ſame perſon; though the contrary had been ſuppoſed, in the Examination, page 22, in the caſe of the Gordons. They were only lords barons in the year 1486; ſo that it muſt be confeſſed that our author is here guilty of an error.

The laſt of Ferrerius's ſuppoſed errors is in the following paragraph, "Hoc "eodem tempore delecti ſunt aliquot regni barones; nimirum, Hume, Torrekis, "Oliphant, my lordi, ut ipſi vocant, in ſupplementum parliamenti eorum."

It is owned, by the examiner, that it is hard to ſay what is meant by "delecti "in ſupplementum parliamenti eorum." It is ſaid, that the expreſſion ſeems to import the ſupplying vacant places in parliament; Torrekis is ſuppoſed Torreglis. There are ſaid to be almoſt as many errors as words in the paragraph; Oliphant is ſhewn to have been a lord of parliament in 1468, Hume in 1473, and Drummond in 1478.

After conſidering the thing duly, all theſe obſervations ſeem to proceed on miſtakes. Our author only meant, that the perſons he mentions were choſen by the parliament, as a committee for the complaints, which was a ſort of ſupplement to the parliament, and to them the word *delecti* is properly applied, and in the Rolls of Parliament, 1ſt of March, 1482, (i. e. 1483. ſtilo Romano, which Ferrerius often uſes) for the barons on the complaints, are the lord Oliphant, the laird of Stobhall, Drummond, and ſir William Knollis, whoſe name probably was miſtaken by the copyiſt, or printer, for Torrekis.

The

The only objection to this ſolution is, that Hume is not one of the number; but admitting that to be an error, it is but a trivial one.

Thus, when all the ſuppoſed errors of this author are weighed, it is plain that they relate to things which did not happen in his own time; and there ſeems to be no good foundation for the many reflections which have been thrown out againſt him. The evidence, therefore, which he affords in ſupport of the creation of Adam earl of Sutherland, which happened only a few years before he wrote, remains good and unexceptionable; and, to uſe the words of the Examination, page 30, "ought to have all the authority that is due to a cotemporary writer, who, from his connexion with a miniſter of ſtate in the court of Scotland, and his continued reſidence in that country, behoved to know the fact, and to be well informed concerning it;" notwithſtanding his being originally "homo peregrinus, Italus et Piedemontanus."